



# Poll Watcher

Guidelines and Regulations

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Indian River County



# **Who can be a Poll Watcher**

- **Candidate Representatives**
- **Political Parties**
- **Political Committees\***

**\*Only Political Committees formed for the specific purpose of expressly advocating the passage or defeat of an issue on the ballot may have one poll watcher in each polling room or early voting area at any one time during the election**

# Regulations

**Each political party, candidate or political party may have one watcher in each polling room or early voting area at any one time during the election.**

**No watcher shall be permitted to come closer to the officials' table or the voting booths than is reasonably necessary to perform his or her functions.**



# Regulations

## **Poll Watcher shall:**

- **Be allowed within the polling room or early voting area to watch and observe the conduct of electors and officials.**
- **Furnish their own materials and necessities and shall not obstruct the orderly conduct of any election.**

# Regulations

## **Poll Watcher Shall:**

- **Pose any questions regarding polling place procedures directly to the clerk for resolution.**
- **Not interact with any voters.**
- **Be a qualified and registered elector of the county of which he or she serves.**



# **Poll Watcher Designation**

**Each party, each political committee and each candidate requesting to have poll watchers shall designate, in writing to the Supervisor of Elections on form DS-DE 125 before noon:**

## **Primary**

**August 6, 2016 for Early Voting**

**August 16, 2016 for Election Day**

## **General**

**October 15, 2016 for Early Voting**

**October 25, 2016 for Election Day**

## Designation of Poll Watchers

<b>Section 1. Election</b>					<b>Official Use Only</b>	
<div style="text-align: right; margin-right: 20px;">Election Date:</div> <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>						
<div style="text-align: right; margin-right: 20px;">Select Early Voting or Election Day:</div> <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>						
<b>Section 2. Category of Authorized Persons</b>						
I am a <b>candidate</b> (or candidate designee*) for the following office in this election: I am the <b>chair</b> (or designee*) of the County Executive Committee of the following Party: I am the <b>chair</b> (or designee*) of the following Political Committee:					<b>Complete Only One of the Boxes Below:</b>	
* A candidate or chair as indicated above must first submit a written, signed designation to the supervisor of elections (or for statewide candidates/issues, to the Division of Elections) authorizing the designee to designate poll watchers on his or her behalf.					<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	
<b>Section 3. Candidate/Chair/Designee</b>						
I request that the listed person(s) below (none of whom is a candidate or a sheriff, deputy sheriff, police officer or other law enforcement officer), who are qualified and registered voters of the county in which they will serve, be approved as poll watchers at the locations indicated below.						
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 15%;">Name:</div> <input style="width: 85%;" type="text"/> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 15%;">Address:</div> <input style="width: 85%;" type="text"/> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 15%;">Email address:</div> <input style="width: 85%;" type="text"/> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 15%;">Phone:</div> <input style="width: 85%;" type="text"/> </div>						
By submitting this form, I certify that I am the person listed above and I am authorized under s. 101.131, Florida Statutes, to designate poll watchers.						
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 20%;">Date Submitted:</div> <input style="width: 15%;" type="text"/> <div style="width: 65%;">Note: This form becomes a public record when submitted to the Supervisor of Elections.</div> </div>						
<b>Section 4. List of Designated Poll Watchers</b>					<b>Official Use Only</b>	
Name	Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy)	Residential Address	Phone #	Polling Place / Early Voting Site (Either write "All Locations" or specify location)	Approved (Y/N)	Assigned Badge Number

### Designation of Poll Watchers

[illegible]



Note: This instructional page need not be included with submission of the DS-DE 125.

#### INSTRUCTIONS FOR POLL WATCHER DESIGNATIONS

1. Each candidate/political party/political committee may have only one poll watcher per polling room or early voting area at any one time.
2. A candidate whose name will appear on the ballot in a future election may not designate poll watchers for an election in which the candidate's name is not on the ballot.
3. Designation of Poll Watchers, Form DS-DE 125, must be used to request designation of poll watchers. **Separate forms must be submitted for designating Early Voting and Election Day poll watchers.** Sufficient information concerning the desired poll watcher must be completed on the form so that the Supervisor of Elections can identify the person as a registered voter in the supervisor's county.
4. Form DS-DE 125 and any attachments to it may be provided to the supervisor of elections by personal delivery, mail, fax, or email.
5. The deadlines to submit a request for poll watcher designation:  
For Early Voting (EV) -- No later than noon at least 14 days before EV begins.  
For Election Day -- No later than noon of the second Tuesday preceding the election.
6. The Supervisors of Elections must approve or disapprove the designation of poll watchers for early voting areas no later than 7 days before the start of early voting and the designations for poll watchers for polling rooms on Election Day, on or before the Tuesday before the election.

#### POLL WATCHERS

A poll watcher:

1. Must be a qualified and registered voter of the county in which they serve as poll watcher.
2. Cannot be a candidate, sheriff, deputy sheriff, policeman, or other law enforcement officer.
3. Who is designated for a specific location is not precluded from going to another polling room/EV area if the number of poll watchers at any particular polling room/EV area does not exceed the allowable number for the applicable candidate/political party/political committee.
4. Who is designated for "All locations/areas" (at-large) is not permitted to be present in a polling room/EV area at the same time as another poll watcher designated by the same candidate/political party/political committee.
5. Will be provided a Poll Watcher Identification Badge by the Supervisor of Elections. The poll watcher must wear his or her Poll Watcher Identification Badge while in the polling room or EV area.
6. Must bring his or her own materials and necessities.
7. Is allowed within the polling room to observe the conduct of the election. He or she *may not* obstruct the orderly conduct of the election.
8. May observe the voter check-in process. He or she may not come closer to the inspectors' table or the voting booths than is reasonably necessary to perform the poll watcher's functions.
9. May not speak to or otherwise interact with voters nor provide assistance to a voter in any way with the voting of his/her ballot, unless a Request for Assistance Form is completed at the voter's request.
10. May make and provide written voter challenges to the precinct clerk.
11. Shall pose any questions regarding polling place procedures directly to the precinct clerk for resolution.

Note: For further details or requirements governing the designation and conduct of poll watchers, refer to sections 101.131 and 101.111, Florida Statutes; Rule 15-2.034 of the Florida Administrative Code; and the rule's incorporated form, DS-DE 11, which contains the Polling Place Procedures Manual.

# **Poll Watcher Approval**

- **Poll watchers for polling rooms shall be approved by the Supervisor of Elections and provided ID badges on or before:**

## **Primary**

**August 13, 2016 for Early Voting**

**August 23, 2016 for Election Day**

## **General**

**October 22, 2016 for Early Voting**

**November 1, 2016 for Election Day**

- **Each poll watcher must wear his or her identification badge while in the polling room or early voting areas.**



# **Approved Poll Watcher List**

- **The Supervisor of Elections shall furnish to each election board a list of the poll watchers designated and approved for such polling rooms or early voting areas.**
- **Designation of poll watchers shall be made by the chair of the county executive committee of a political party, the chair of a political committee, or the candidate requesting to have poll watchers.**

# Who Cannot Be A Poll Watcher?

- **Candidates**
- **Sheriff**
- **Deputy Sheriff**
- **Police Officer**
- **Or other Law Enforcement Officer**



# All Poll Watchers

**Shall be allowed to enter and watch polls in all polling rooms and early voting areas within the county in which they have been designated if the number of poll watchers at any particular polling place does not exceed the number provided in the section.**

# Guidelines

- **Poll watchers may challenge the right of a person to vote in that county. The challenge must be in writing and contain the “Oath Of Person Entering Challenge.” The Clerk has the form.**
- **Poll watchers are not permitted to wear campaign buttons, shirts, hats, or other campaign items while they are in the polling room.**



# Important Dates to Remember

- **Noon – August 6, 2016** - Deadline for poll watcher designations for early voting locations for Primary
- **August 13, 2016** – Deadline for Supervisor of Elections to approve poll watchers and provide ID badges for early voting for Primary
- **Noon – August 16, 2016** – Deadline for poll watcher designations for Election Day
- **August 23, 2016** – Deadline for Supervisor of Elections to approve poll watchers and provide ID badges for Election Day



# **Primary Election Early Voting**

**Saturday, August 20th – Saturday, August 27th  
8 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

**Supervisor of Elections Office  
4375 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Vero Beach**

**Indian River County Main Library  
1600 21<sup>st</sup> Street, Vero Beach**

**Sebastian City Hall Council Chambers  
1225 Main Street, Sebastian**





# **General Election Early Voting**

**Monday, October 24th – Saturday, November 5th  
8 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

**Supervisor of Elections Office  
4375 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Vero Beach**

**Indian River County Main Library  
1600 21<sup>st</sup> Street, Vero Beach**

**Sebastian City Hall Council Chambers  
1225 Main Street, Sebastian**

# **Election Days**

- **Election Days:**

**Primary - August 30, 2016**

**General – November 8, 2016**

- **Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.**